

# DINING ROOM FURNISHINGS

Suggestions to Be Found In  
"The Little Dutch Masters"  
How to Care For Old Mahogany.



A COLONIAL DINING ROOM OF THE BEST TYPE.

THE keynote to the successful furnishing of a dining room is to avoid conflict either of color, wood or style of furniture. And there is no spot in the house that expresses one's character more convincingly than this apartment unless it be the library or den. A drawing room one furnishes chiefly for one's friends, and a bedroom—well, a woman's sleeping apartment usually expresses the frivolous side of her nature—that is, if she be of the really feminine type. Take the matter of woods used in the dining room. This detail usually is thrust upon the person renting a home, but much can be done by way of paint and staining to make better even almost hopelessly bad woodwork. But where the selection is optional it is only a question of individual fancy or one of expense.

Two kinds of wood may be used in a dining room, as they are in the charming colonial room seen in the illustration. The trimmings are in white and the furniture genuine old mahogany. The latticed frieze is a delightful detail in this room, with its trailing and blooming grapevine covering. The window treatment, too, is exceptionally artistic and satisfying and may prove helpful to persons who have to drape windows of like shape. The walls are painted a deep old yellow, and the window curtains of cathedral cloth are of a deep ecru with an overdrapery of golden brown velours. The rich tones of the burgandy grapes used in the frieze tone exquisitely with the yellow scheme, helped out by the brown of the mahogany pieces of Chippendale.

And in connection with wood coloring I would make very positive the impossibility of combining different styles of furniture in the same apartment. For example, to put a Dutch cabinet beside an Italian chair would be bad form from a decorator's standpoint. Mahogany furniture of the colonial period, so beautiful and dignified in its lines, seems almost ugly if some of the highly polished modern oak furniture is placed in the same room. So, if a housekeeper likes mahogany and has money only to buy one piece at a time, the best plan is to combine with it mission furniture, keeping to browns or dull greens. While different in every respect from mahogany, mission lines are still not dissimilar, in that both are massive and heavy and frivolity does not enter in. Oak is by no means to be despised, but it must never be used with other furniture.

Cherry, if executed like mahogany, is beautiful when used with the latter. Much of the so-called old mahogany is cherry. This fact does not detract from the value of the cherry piece, for such are no longer made, and they have decided worth. In colonial days the two woods were often combined in one piece, as a bureau with drawers and top of mahogany would have the front panel of cherry. There is a new kind of furniture that is particularly good for the dining room called Flanders—a compromise between mission and Flemish oak. There are a dignity of form and a deep richness of color about this furniture that should make it popular in rooms with dark woodwork and corresponding wall colors. Dutch painters of the "Dutch little masters" school offer interesting suggestiveness for the house furnisher. These artists in their canvases selected homelike subjects and put them in their native surroundings. Gerard Dou's masterpiece in the Louvre, Paris, suggested to a professional decorator the idea of duplicating in a modern home the long window seat and fireplace with its sloping mantel breast seen in this picture. And one could cite canvas after canvas rich in suggestions. In passing I would say that this Flanders furniture tones beautifully with an olive or a softer grayish green wall color.

Pictures more than furniture in many dining rooms are found to be the jarring note. For instance, it is not uncommon to see a charming view in a gilt frame in juxtaposition to one set in polished wood. Pictures in colonial dining rooms, unless portraits of ancestors appropriately framed, are best left out of the furnishing.

A word about the care of old furniture, which in the hands of the modern housemaid is often disappointing. There may be a gloss on the old mahogany sideboard, but it is the gloss of too much furniture polish. The less polish the better is the rule where antiques are concerned. Old oak and other woods always require more elbow grease than application. Sweet oil, sparingly applied, is, however, excellent for antique mahogany. If a flannel is dipped in the oil it should be rubbed over the wood, the surface having been first of all well dusted. Stains and spots on old mahogany can be taken out by dipping a cork in oxalic acid and water and working it over the marks. Two ounces of a yellow beeswax dissolved in the same quantity of spirits of turpentine represents another good medium for mahogany. And a general all round polish is that of equal parts of olive oil, vinegar and alcohol. DAPHNE DEAN.

## Charms of New Linens

Yellow Tones Especially Attractive and Smart—Paris Flood Delays Early Spring Models

EVERYTHING points to an early spring season sartorially. The early date of Easter has incited a forced display of models in the shops. Indeed, judging from the summery parasols, wash materials and straw hats of the lightest variety, both as to coloring and fabrics, to be seen in shop windows, one would imagine that the thermometer was registering away up in the nineties. In Paris, owing to the recent flood, manufacturers, designers and work folk of all kinds are behindhand with their orders just at the rush season. It is therefore likely that for the next few weeks we will see no novelties from the gay French capital, but the models that already have come over or that have been copied by American dress-makers from French sketches promise delightful things for the later season. Women seem satisfied, though, with the present dress information, and the absence of hard and fast rules concerning sleeves and skirts and coats apparently has given them confidence to go ahead, at least, with tub frocks, charming little street costumes and useful and practical foulards that are sure to be needed, no matter what is ordered later.

In lines the weaves and range of colorings were never lovelier, but the linen par excellence is the soft, dull finished sort with a hand woven appearance. Some of the new linens have a certain luster, but it is not the old shine—rather, it is a mercurizing which gives to the fabric the soft, loose woven semblance of tussore. In the shops they are telling customers that this luster will remain intact after repeated visits to the tub, but only experience will determine the verity of this statement. However, the new surface of this linen is much more desirable and serviceable than the stiff linens of other summers. There are all sorts of new diagonal weaves, and in the showing one must not forget the stunning effects in bordered, striped and embroidered linens. Very coarse unbleached muslin is being worked out in a smart effect as a Russian blouse dress with a long tunic. Cross stitching in white combined with a deeper shade of ecru makes the picturesque and unusual trimming. A combination of the heaviest ecru floss and a fine white embroidery cotton would give another and richer effect. The skilled embroiderer may use all her cleverness in devising novel designs in long and short stitch. There is little doubt as to the wearing qualities of the unbleached muslin. Care, however, should be exercised in selecting the quality. That to be avoided is the very firm and heavy variety.

To return to the linen frock, the range of colors this season is more beautiful than ever before. One of the most prominent color lines runs the gamut through gold and buff and citron



and have a great admiration for America. It is probable that this cunning little maid of the orient will accompany her parents to this country some time in 1919.

how, and in coat suits the collar and cuffs are sometimes faced with black silk or satin. The latter, unless removable, makes cleansing instead of laundering a necessary.

Collarless Effects. Collarless effects are among the linen frocks, but even where the model is of this type it is always possible to add a glimpse of lingerie or lace when the low Dutch neck is not becoming. A festive air is given these frocks by the addition of frills upon the waist in one form or another. Handmade frills, simply gathered rather than plaited, are the daintiest things imaginable. They are finished with a narrow lace edging or merely hemstitched. The side frill is much approved; also the double arrangement which falls from the sides of a central piece of lace or embroidery insertion.

In lingerie gowns the princess, lines and hand embroidery mingled with insertions of lace take first place. Handkerchief linen, while expensive, gives much better service than batiste or mull, and fine cotton etamine and cotton crapes are materials that will be much used. Some of the fine lavens may be employed for these lingerie gowns, though most of them have too much body and not enough softness to be perfectly satisfactory. Models galore are to be had with the lines as good as in the most expensive models at cheap prices. These frocks with their materials of coarse lawn and cheap lace proclaim their plebeian origin and are altogether to be shunned. Good materials made up at home, with insertions of real cluny combined with a good quality of German valenciennes, give charming results with little expenditure of either time or money.

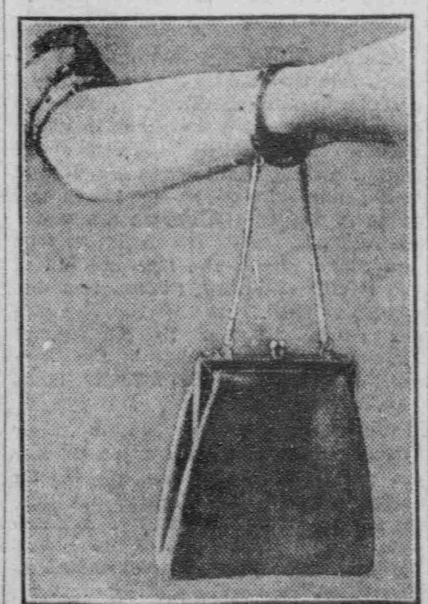
CATHERINE TALBOT.

### GIFT FOR WOMAN WHO CROSSES THE OCEAN.

Make a gift bag for the friend who will soon be taking a trip to Europe. It is a pretty remembrance that requires more time than money, as other friends are asked to contribute. The bag itself is of plain linen that will do up splendidly on the trip. It is about half a yard square. The gifts that go into such a bag will largely depend upon the taste of the recipient. But be sure to include among the presents for each day of the voyage some funny articles that may cheer the traveler if she is feeling homesick or well, if old Neptune is too strenuous in his antics for her comfort. In a gift bag under construction has been stored a leather writing case large enough to hold a fountain pen, one package of envelopes and a pad instead of regulation letter paper. The tourist's love of reading has been remembered by putting in several small books. One relative has contributed a tiny umbrella strap for holding umbrellas in one bundle. A collapsible silver drinking cup is in another parcel, and a small hot water bag and a small elderdown cushion, silk covered, for use when the traveler is in her steamer cabin.

### A PARISIAN HAND BAG.

ONE of the latest Parisian novelties consists of a hand bag which is fastened to a narrow gold bracelet. The advantage of this contrivance lies in the fact that while shopping the owner is not required to carry the bag, thus insuring freedom of the hands for the holding of umbrella, parasol or



BAG WITH WRIST ATTACHMENT.

packages. An additional advantage and by no means the most important one is that the bag cannot be lost, as happens so often when a purchaser in a shop places her hand bag on the counter while examining goods or adjusting the parcels. The straps by means of which the bag is fastened to the bracelet are of sufficient length to permit the opening of the bag without inconvenience.

### THE HEN GONE OVER TO FOOD TRUSTS.

THIS is sad, sad news—the hen has gone over to the food trusts! The erstwhile humble, faithful, virtuous hen, the contented associate of farmers and everyday people in the old days, has basely deserted us. Dr. Wiley says so. He says that she is laying smaller eggs, apparently laying them quite deliberately and with malice aforethought. Eggs being sold by the dozen, this is a serious matter for the consumer. And no defender of the hen need say that she doesn't know that her output is sold by the dozen, for she is an intelligent creature, as anybody who has heard a group of hens conversing in a barnyard is aware, and she has mingled too much in human society not to have noticed how these things are done. She knows, and yet she not only lays smaller eggs, but she is putting, Dr. Wiley says, less nutriment into them than formerly. It's a blow, and yet it might have been foreseen. The fact is, the hen has been spoiled. In the old days she was

kept in her place—roosted in a tree or on a fence rail, scratched for her living and hatched out her young family under the lee of a bush or any place she could find. Knowing hardship and suffering, she had a heart for the poor and would have scorned to stand in with the monopolists who exploit them. All this is changed. Rich trusts have taken up the hen, given her steam heated houses to live in, fed her on selected food, relieved her of the care of motherhood, and, naturally, she has grown away from the people. After all, she is not to be blamed. Evil communications corrupt almost anybody, and how could we expect the hen to remain unsullied in an age when so many are falling?

### TO THE BUSINESS GIRL.

When you come home at night from your office, business girl, what do you do? Do you sit down just as you are in your shirt waist, with your hair rumpled and hat flattened and eat your dinner or supper feeling that "there's no one to see you, so it doesn't matter?"

But, now, just think a minute! Suppose some one should knock at the door. Wouldn't you feel sorry and distinctly embarrassed to be seen looking untidy and work worn?

You must remember that it is important for you to seize every small opportunity for social pleasure that comes your way and if it does not come your way to go out and meet it. Now, if you changed your business dress for a simple little house frock—even if you did it only for your own comfort—you would find that the very fact of being in a fresh gown would make you feel anxious to be sociable, and then if a friend does come unexpectedly you will be glad instead of sorry, and in such a change of costume you will be more inclined to go out to see some of your friends after dinner, and altogether things will look quite different if you've got on your "glad rags."

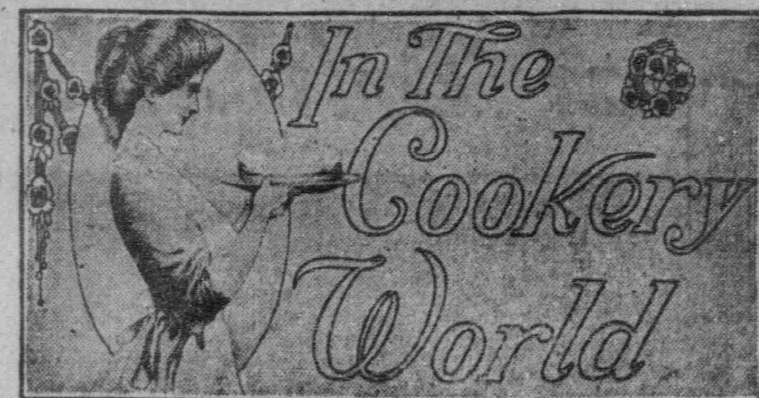
### FANCY WOOD GLUE.

A most desirable boiled paste is made in the following way for all sorts of fancy work involving the gluing of linen, crape, silk, poplin, cretonne or chintz to pasteboard or lightweight wood.

The ingredients are gluten flour, alum and water. To one cup of gluten or whole wheat flour add one cup of cold water and mix them well together. Then add two or three cups of boiling water, stirred slowly in. Boil and stir five minutes or until it clarifies, and then add one teaspoonful of powdered alum dissolved in cold water. This glue will keep for a week or more if put in a jar or bowl without a lid. To cover it is to sour it.

### PERSEVERE.

"Take your needle, my child, and work at your pattern. It will come out a rose by and by." Life is like that—one stitch at a time taken patiently and the pattern will come out all right like the embroidery.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.



NOW that eggs are almost as prohibitive in price as meat it behooves the housekeeper who has to provide for the "sweet tooth" of the family to look around and find cake recipes that do not include many eggs in their formulas. A very good plain cake may be made with only one egg, and cakes may be made without any eggs at all if more butter is used and creamed very well.

The following recipe always has given very satisfactory results: Four tablespoonsful of butter, three-fourths of a cupful of sugar, one egg, one cupful and a half of flour, one teaspoonful and a half of baking powder, half a teaspoonful of salt and half a cupful of milk or water. To get the best result from these materials the butter and sugar should be thoroughly creamed and then the egg added, well beaten. The baking powder, salt and flour should be well sifted together. To prevent curdling the flour and the liquid should be added a little at a time alternately. When all the ingredients have been thoroughly combined the batter should be well beaten. When put into the pan, if the cake is pushed slightly from the center toward the edges it will be even on top when baked.

Pastry flour and fine granulated sugar make better cake than bread flour and coarse sugar. If coarse sugar must be used, sifting several times will improve it. It is well to remember that coarse grained cake results from too little beating of the whole mixture, too much baking powder or too slow an oven. The cake will split across the top if too much flour has been used or if the oven has been too hot. For loaf cake the oven is right when it will turn writing paper a golden brown in five minutes. Ham fat or olive oil is preferable to and less costly than butter for greasing cake pans. A very good cake maker recommends lining the pans with paraffin paper.

To make plain cake from the recipe given any desired flavoring may be used, as half a teaspoonful of vanilla or lemon extract or a little nutmeg. For spice cake add one-quarter of a teaspoonful of cinnamon and one-quarter of a teaspoonful of allspice. Substituting half a cupful of coffee for the water or milk gives a pleasing change. One-quarter of a cupful of cocoa or one ounce of chocolate melted and stirred into the batter will make chocolate cake. For marble cake divide the original batter into as many

parts as one wishes and color and flavor each as desired—with chocolate, lemon, strawberry or vanilla.

The recipe as given is just right for baking in layers or small fancy shaped tins, and the layers may be put together with icings which seem very different, but really are not. Boiled icing is best, and vegetable colorings are harmless. Chopped nuts are nice stirred into the icing, and the use of dark brown sugar instead of the granulated makes a pleasing change. A soft custard or fruit juice stiffened slightly with cornstarch makes a delicious filling, and a fine cream cake is made by whipping half a pint of cream, spreading it between the layers and on top and sprinkling thickly with shredded cocoanut.

An inexpensive cake that is really delicious is made from one cupful and a half of apple sauce, one teaspoonful of soda, one-fourth of a cupful of melted butter, one teaspoonful each of cinnamon, cloves, allspice, one cupful and a half of raisins, one cupful of sugar and a scant two cupfuls of flour. The soda is mixed with about two tablespoonsful of boiling water and poured quickly into the apple sauce. The other ingredients are then added, the fruit being put in last. The secret of success with this cake is quick, thorough mixing, dropping the fruit and flour in rather than stirring. It should be baked in a very moderate oven for one hour.

### DO YOU SING CHARMINGLY?

Then when any one tells you so don't pretend you don't think so. Say prettily, "I'm so pleased to be able to please you!"

To appreciate and acknowledge one's ability is not conceit.

Far more conceited is the girl who by continually crying herself down obliges her friends to be continually reassuring her as to her many charms.

Self depreciation is often one of the ugliest forms of conceit.

"The best preventive of vanity is pride."

When you feel yourself becoming vain and exultant over any gift or charm say that over to yourself, "The best preventive of vanity is pride."

And then apply it.

Take such pride in your gift that you will feel a reverence for it, and in cultivating it you will soon find yourself far too busy to indulge in vain thoughts.

## A New Tailored Suit



THE natty little suit pictured is one of the best of the conservative spring models. The coat is cut a fashionable length, and the closing is made with three large handsome metal buttons. The skirt, while not skimpily at

the bottom, clings closely over the hips and tends to dip inward around the ankles after the fashionable fad of the winter. The material used is a sapphire blue hopsacking brightened by smart collar and cuffs of velvet embroidered in dull gold.

## To the Daughter of the House

DO you ever look around the living room and think vaguely to yourself that some one really ought to tidy it, shake up the cushions, refill the flower vases, etc.?

The place has a neglected appearance.

Or perhaps your wandering eye fastens on a hole in the tablecloth.

"Some one ought to darn that," you think.

But perhaps you never go to the length of settling just who should undertake these little duties that make such a difference in the comfort and appearance of the house.

Any one else in the family could tell you at once.

You're the person.

That's quite a new viewpoint, isn't it?

But when you come to think of it, whose duty should it be but yours?

Mother is much too busy seeing to the housekeeping, and you couldn't expect the small kids to darn a tablecloth with much success or to refill the flower vases without breaking them.

So now that you've been told you'd better set to work and undertake these little jobs that are really no trouble at all to do and save mother a world of annoyance.